



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/804,947	03/18/2004	John Kenneth Goldermann Thuneby	M61.12-0570	9175
27366 7590 03/20/2008 WESTMAN CHAMPLIN (MICROSOFT CORPORATION) SUITE 1400 900 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-3319				
EXAMINER				
HAMMOND III, THOMAS M				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3691				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/20/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/804,947

Applicant(s)

THUNEBY ET AL.

Examiner

THOMAS M. HAMMOND III

Art Unit

3691

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-946)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03/18/2004, 01/21/2008
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. This action is in reply to the application filed on 03/24/2004.
2. Claims 1-16 are currently pending and have been examined.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The Information Disclosure Statements filed 03/18/2004 and 01/21/2008 have been considered. Initialed copies of the Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

5. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-16 are directed toward a computerized accounting system. However, the limitations, as recited, do not disclose any physical components of such system. These limitations are interpreted to be computer code, per se, and therefore not eligible for patent protection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1 and 4-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Kaplan et al.*, US Patent No. 6,584,453.

As per claim 1

Kaplan teaches:

- a) generating a new transaction document that is a copy of the original transaction document in response to a command to edit the original transaction document (see at least column 5, lines 30-67; column 6, lines 1-38)
- b) modifying the new transaction document (see at least column 5, lines 30-67; column 6, lines 1-38)
- c) saving the modified new transaction document (see at least column 5, lines 30-67; column 6, lines 1-38)
- d) nullifying the original transaction postings in the general ledger (see at least column 5, lines 30-67; column 6, lines 1-38)
- e) posting transactions of the modified new transaction document in the general ledger (see at least column 5, lines 30-67; column 6, lines 1-38)

Art Unit: 3691

As per claims 4-7

Kaplan teaches the method of claim 1, as described above.

Kaplan further teaches:

- Wherein the posting step e) is performed in response to the saving step c) (see at least column 6, lines 20-31)
- Wherein the original transaction document is selected from a group consisting of an invoice, a vendor bill, a check, a deposit, and a journal entry (see at least column 4, lines 48-67; column 5, lines 1-27)
- Wherein the nullifying step d) includes posting one or more canceling transactions in the general ledger that nullify each of the original transaction postings in the general ledger (see at least column 5, lines 30-67; column 6, lines 1-38)
- Wherein the nullifying step d) includes voiding the original transaction postings in the general ledger (see at least column 5, lines 30-67; column 6, lines 1-38)

As per claim 8

Kaplan teaches the method of claim 7, as described above.

Kaplan further teaches:

- Including voiding the original transaction document (see at least column 5, lines 30-67; column 6, lines 1-38)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kaplan*, in view of, *Land et al.*, US Patent No. 6,807,533.

As per claim 2

Kaplan teaches the method of claim 1, as described above.

Kaplan further teaches:

- Adjusting account balances and reconciling them with the general ledger (see at least column 4, lines 48-67; column 5, lines 1-27)

Kaplan does not teach:

- Wherein the modifying step b) includes adding, deleting, or changing a transaction in the new transaction document

Land teaches:

- Wherein the modifying step b) includes adding, deleting, or changing a transaction in the new transaction document (see at least column 10, lines 25-41)

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to add the feature of Land to the teachings of Kaplan. One would have been motivated to do so to help facilitate account balancing at the appropriate time (see at least Land column 3, lines 9-17).

Art Unit: 3691

As per claim 3

Kaplan, in view of Land, teaches the method of claim 2, as described above.

Land further teaches:

- Wherein the modifying step b) includes applying a credit, applying a debit, modifying a quantity, or modifying a cost of the new transaction document (see at least column 10, lines 25-41)

ADDITIONAL REJECTIONS

Claims 9-16 are interpreted to encompass substantially the same scope as claims 1-8. Accordingly, claims 9-16 are rejected in substantially the same manner as claims 1-8.

Art Unit: 3691

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas M. Hammond III whose telephone number is 571-270-1829. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 7AM - 5PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on 571-272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Thomas M Hammond III
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3691
US Patent & Trademark Office
03-10-2008

/Hani M. Kazimi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3691